

United States Government

Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration

# memorandum

DATE: March 31, 2004

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-141)

TO: Mickey Carter  
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager - KEWU-4

**Proposed Action:** Idaho Model Watershed Habitat Projects – Salmon River Riparian Enhancement, Sell Fence

**Project No:** 1994-017-00

**Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See App. A of the Watershed Management Program EIS):** 2.1 Maintain Healthy Riparian Plant Communities, 3.7 Critical Area Planting, 5.1 Heavy Use Area Protection, 6.10 Access: Fencing

**Location:** Lemhi County, Idaho

**Proposed by:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the Lemhi Soil and Water Conservation District

**Description of the Proposed Action:** The Bonneville Power Administration is proposing to fund the installation of approximately 5,500 feet of riparian fence on Big Flat in Lemhi County, Idaho. This fence will be 3-pole fence with precast concrete poles and will involve no ground disturbance. The fence will meet BPA's minimum requirement of a 35-foot setback. The goal of this project is to protect and enhance salmon and steelhead rearing and migration habitat through exclusion fencing.

**Analysis:** The NEPA compliance checklist for this project was completed by Allen Bradbury with the Lemhi Soil and Water Conservation District (March 26, 2004) and meets the standards and guidelines for the Watershed Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed species that may occur in the general vicinity of the project area are gray wolf, Canada lynx, bald eagle, Snake River spring/summer chinook salmon, Snake River steelhead trout, and Columbia River Basin bull trout. It was determined that the proposed fence construction project would have no effect on gray wolf or Canada lynx since the project site is primarily agricultural and these species are not known to occur in the project area. Although bald eagles may perch in nearby cottonwood trees, there will be no removal of trees associated with this project and human disturbance will be minor, therefore no effect to bald eagles is expected. It was also determined that the proposed project would have no effect on ESA listed aquatic species since the proposed fence will be constructed with little to no ground disturbance at a distance of 35 to 300 feet from the stream channel. In addition, the area has excellent ground cover and high quality riparian vegetation that would serve as a buffer to any potential sediment created by construction of the fence.

The proposed fence design and installation will result in no ground disturbance. It was determined that the project therefore does not have the potential to affect historic and/or cultural resources, and consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office and Tribe(s) would not be required under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. In the unlikely event that archaeological material is

discovered during project implementation, an archaeologist should be notified immediately and work halted in the vicinity of the finds until they can be inspected and assessed.

Standard water quality protection procedures and Best Management Practices should be followed during the implementation of the Sell Fence project. No construction is authorized to begin until the proponent has obtained all applicable local, state, and federal permits and approvals.

Public involvement has occurred as part of the Sell Fence project. This project was coordinated through the Upper Salmon Basin Technical Team composed of representatives from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, NOAA Fisheries, Shoshone Bannock Tribe, and Idaho Department of Fish and Game. In addition, Lemhi Soil and Water Conservation District and the Upper Salmon Basin Watershed Project hold monthly meetings that are open to the public in which this project was discussed.

**Findings:** The project is generally consistent with Section 7.6A.2, 7.6B.3, & 7.8E.1, of the Northwest Power Planning Council's Fish and Wildlife Program. This Supplement Analysis finds 1) that the proposed actions are substantially consistent with the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265) and ROD, and, 2) that there are no new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed actions or their impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

/s/ Shannon C. Stewart  
Shannon C. Stewart  
Environmental Specialist

CONCUR:

/s/ Thomas C. McKinney  
Thomas C. McKinney  
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: 3/15/2004

Attachments:  
NEPA Compliance Checklist

cc: (w/o attachments)  
Mr. Allen Bradbury – Lemhi Soil and Water Conservation District